

TREATING ALCOHOL DEPENDENCE AND ABUSE IN MISSOURI

Alcoholism: Symptoms, Treatment & Consumption in Missouri

Symptoms of alcoholism include a strong need to drink, the inability to stop drinking after beginning, physical dependence (or withdrawal symptoms), and tolerance (or the need to drink more to get the desired effect).¹

There is no cure for alcoholism, but alcoholism can be treated with counseling and/or medication.¹

Approximately 1 in every 7 Missouri adults binge drank in the past month and 1 in every 20 drank heavily.²

Two-fifths of Missouri high school students drank in the past month, while almost 1 in every 4 binge drank.³

How large is the demand for treatment in Missouri?

During Fiscal Years 2004-06, alcohol was the primary drug of abuse for over 1/3 of admissions to ADA-supported programs – totaling over 61,000 admissions.⁴

- Over 35,000 additional admissions reported alcohol as the second or third drug.

In 2003-04, almost one-tenth of Missourians 12+ years of age (an estimated 440,000 individuals) reported alcohol dependence or abuse.⁵

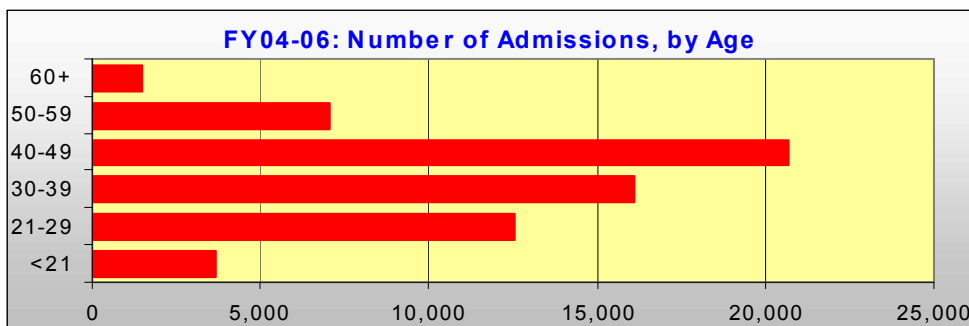
- Approximately 1 in 12 Missourians 12+ years (an estimated 420,000 individuals) reported needing but not receiving treatment for alcohol dependence or abuse.



What are the Challenges facing Missouri?⁴

For admissions during FY04-06 to ADA-supported treatment with alcohol as the primary drug of abuse:

- over two-thirds had received prior detoxification, outpatient or residential treatment services;
- almost one-third drank alcohol daily, while an estimated nine-tenths began drinking when younger than the legal drinking or were exposed to alcohol as fetuses or newborns;
- one-fifth had a psychological problem in addition to the alcohol abuse for which they were being treated; and
- almost one-half had children, over one-third were separated or divorced, approximately one-half were unemployed, one-tenth were homeless, and three-fifths had one or more DUI arrests.



ADA is Meeting these Challenges: Treatment Outcomes⁵

Almost three-fifths of admissions with alcohol as the primary drug of abuse successfully completed treatment.

- Of these, over three-fifths were abstinent at discharge.

1. National Institutes of Health, National Institute on Alcohol Abuse and Alcoholism. FAQs for the General Public.
2. Centers for Disease Control & Prevention, Chronic Disease Prevention & Health Promotion. Behavioral Risk Factor Surveillance System, 2005.
3. Centers for Disease Control & Prevention, Chronic Disease Prevention & Health Promotion. Youth Risk Behavior Surveillance System, 2005.
4. Missouri Department of Mental Health, Alcohol & Drug Abuse. MADA_General_Stats_FY2004-06 data tables (all admissions).
5. Missouri Department of Mental Health, Alcohol & Drug Abuse. Alcohol, Drug & Tobacco Use in Missouri: A Profile in Prevention & Treatment, 2007.